

Application No.: 09/965610

Case No.: 56032US022

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 23-38 are pending in this Application. Claim 21 has been canceled.

Applicants received a final Office Action mailed June 30, 2004. Applicants submitted a timely response and amendment on October 20, 2004. Subsequently, Applicants received an Advisory Action dated November 30, 2004 indicating proposed amendments will not be entered. Applicants conducted an interview with Examiner Ghali on December 17, 2004 for clarification. In the interview, Examiner Ghali indicated that there may been some misunderstanding of the proposed amendments reflected in the Advisory Action. It was agreed that Applicants would submit a Request for Continued Examination and amend the claims as discussed with the Examiner.

It is believed that the amended claims are clearly patentable over Gerbe et al. (WO 96/08229) in view of Cleary (EP 0483105 A1). Favorable action and the allowance of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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